

## REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, and 6 have been amended. Claim 7 has been canceled. Claims 1-6 are currently pending.

### *Claim Rejections – 35 USC §112*

The Examiner rejected claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. The Applicant has made the following amendments to advance prosecution. No new matter has been added. Applicant submits that the grounds for rejection have been removed by the present amendments and respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn.

Regarding claims 1 and 3, step a) has been amended to show that the “molar ratio between about 1/1 and about 6/1” is the molar ratio of piperazine to N-haloacetyl-2,6-xylidine (specification, pg. 3, lines 16-17). Likewise, claim 6 step a) has been amended to show that the “molar ratio of 3/1” is the molar ratio of piperazine to N-chloroacetyl-2,6-xylidine (specification, pg. 3, lines 16-17).

Also regarding claims 1 and 3, step a) has been amended to clarify the language “equimolar amount of HCl”. Applicant intends for there to be an equimolar amount of HCl relative to the molar amount of piperazine (specification, pg. 2, line 34).

The Applicant amended claim 1 step b) to include “by filtration to create a filtrate” (specification, pg. 4, line 3) to correct the issues regarding lack of antecedent basis in steps c) and d) of claim 1.

Regarding step d) of claim 1, the claim language “small” has been deleted. It has been replaced with more definite claim language.

Regarding claim 7, the claim has been canceled based on the Examiner’s recommendation.

**CONCLUSION**

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-6, as amended, are in condition for allowance and entry of the present amendment and notification to that effect is earnestly requested.

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